

Christianity—a quick look

Jesus Christ...the bridge

God loves you so much that he provided a way for you to receive eternal life—a bridge over the chasm of sin that separates you from God. This bridge is Jesus Christ who was both God and man. Jesus purchased eternal life for you by dying on the cross and paying the penalty for your sins. He willingly sacrificed His life for yours.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16

Christ's gift...eternal life

Jesus is now offering you eternal life. You cannot earn eternal life because eternal life is a gift that is given to you by your Lord (leader) and Savior (forgiver). Eternal life is simply given to you through faith and trust in Him. You must have faith in Him for eternal life, not in yourself or your own actions. You must accept Jesus as Savior for the forgiveness of your sins. You must give Him control over your life. You must repent and turn away from the things in your life that displease Him.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." —Ephesians 2:8-9

spiritual growth...faith

By grace, you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and receive the gift of eternal life. As a new Christian, we encourage you to continue your spiritual growth through prayer, Bible study, worship, connecting with other believers and service. There are many opportunities to grow spiritually at SOCC.

As your first step here at SOCC, we strongly encourage you to attend CONNECT. Check www.socc.org or the *CONNECT* brochure for times.

how to become a Christian

The Bible records that the followers of Jesus Christ are called Christians. So, to become a Christian is to become a follower of Jesus. Following is more than just **knowing** about Jesus, it is a **personal relationship** with Him. Faith is belief in action. Christians trust Jesus to save them from their sins and to lead them spiritually on a daily basis. Followers of Jesus believe in Him as their personal forgiver and submit to Him. Faith in Jesus is essential to being a Christian.

Once convinced that Jesus is the Lord and Savior, the focus of our lives changes from being self-centered to Christ-centered. An attitude of repentance follows (biblical repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of life). A repentant attitude should be visible in our words and deeds, demonstrating to all our commitment to Jesus Christ. Such faith then responds to the command of baptism (immersion). This beautiful act captures the essence of the gospel message – the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ – and becomes an expression of submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

After becoming a committed follower of Christ, we devote ourselves to the worship of God, to the application of his Word to our lives and to the service of others in his name.

If you have come to believe in Jesus and are ready for the next step, then...

- resolve, with God's help, to change the direction of your life.
- show through word and deed that you accept Jesus as your leader and forgiver.
- participate in his burial and resurrection through baptism.
- participate regularly in the life of the church.

rededicating your life to God

If you are someone who had accepted Jesus at some point in your life, but have fallen away from faithful living, you may wish to rededicate your life to God.

There is nothing mystical or magical about rededication. It is simply changing the direction of your life toward Godly living. While you may wish to publicly share your desire for rededication, it is not necessary. Rededication is primarily an act between you and God and does not require any "official blessing" or ceremony.

If you wish to rededicate your life and have not been baptized, contact us (812.334.0206) so that we may pray with you and talk with you about being baptized.

rededication...first things first

Rededication of your life to faithfully following Jesus begins with both confession (admitting you're on the wrong path) and repentance (turning your life around and getting back on a path of Godly living). (1 John 1:8,9, Acts 2:38)

rededication...freedom from sin

Your desire for rededication shows the desire of your heart—a closer walk with Jesus. Through rededication you experience freedom from the constraining power of sin in your life. (Galatians 5:1)

rededication...your focus

As you rededicate your life, focus on God's strength and not your own. Only God's strength will keep you and sustain you. His Word will provide you clear direction. (Romans 12:1)

helpful scriptures

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." —1 John 1:8,9

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." —Acts 2:38

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." —Galatians 5:1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." —Romans 12:1,2